

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 are pending. Applicant thankfully acknowledges the Examiner's indication that claims 3, 4 and 6-8 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim.

Prior Art Rejections

Claims 1, 2, 5 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Nagahara (US 2002/0181120). Applicant respectfully disagrees.

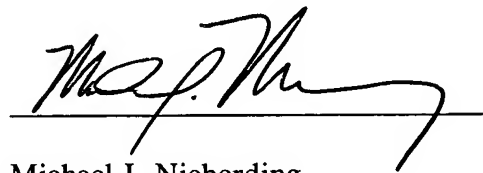
Independent claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, "the fifth lens group being a common lens group that is disposed on the front side of the light modulator, transmits the illuminating light and the projection light, and does not move during zooming." While Nagahara teaches that his fifth lens is fixed during zooming (see para. 39), Nagahara's fifth lens is a relay lens and not a common lens group that transmits the illuminating light and the projection light as recited in claim 1 of the present application. Instead, Nagahara's fifth lens transmits only the projection light. Accordingly, Nagahara does not anticipate claim 1, and applicants request that the rejection based upon Nagahara be withdrawn.

To more clearly illustrate difference between systems such as Nagahara and the Applicant's claimed invention, submitted herewith is Narimatsu et al. (US 6,147,812). As shown in Fig. 1 of Narimatsu et al., optical system 3 for illuminating light modulator 2 is completely different from the lens system 5 for projecting the image from the light modulator 2. By contrast, referring to Fig. 1 of the present application, the fifth lens group G5 is common to the lens system 5 for projecting the image from the light modulator 2 and optical system 3 for illuminating. As stated at page 10, lines 2-7 of the present application, "[t]he fifth lens group G5 is a field lens that transmits not only the projection light 12 but also the illuminating light 11 and, in combination with the objective optical system 8b of the illumination system 3, act as an illuminating light system that irradiates the illuminating light 11 emitted from the illumination system onto the light valve 2." Such a common lens group G5 can only be applied to systems

including a reflection type modulator such as DMD and cannot be applied to systems using the penetrating type light modulator such as LCD that is referred to by Nagahara. Therefore, the teachings of Nagahara do not render claim 1 obvious.

With regard to claims 2, 5 and 9, Applicant requests reconsideration in light of the above remarks. Please contact the undersigned attorney with any questions regarding this response.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael J. Nieberding", is written over a horizontal line.

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